

City of Kingston Arts Commission
Meeting – Thursday, November 10, 2016 – 4:30 p.m.
City Hall

MINUTES

Attendance

Commission Members in attendance were Micah Blumenthal, Richard Frumess, Lara Giordano, Susan Linn, and Ward Mintz.

Excused: Anne Bailey, Linda Marston-Reid, and Ruth Ann Devitt-Frank

Call to Order

Ward called the meeting to order at 4:40 p.m.

October Minutes

Micah moved for the approval of Minutes from Oct 11, 2016, Lara seconded, none opposed.

Review List of candidates for Pablo Shine's replacement

It was noted that the Commission has not been involved with choosing replacements for retiring Commission members. Micah stated that the Commission needs to establish an advisory role with the Mayor and that it should be in writing. The most important criterion is for a potential new member to have an interest in serving, along with three other three criteria, which, in order of importance, are arts affiliation/discipline, diversity and age.

Budget

Going hand in hand with that, we discussed a budget for the Commission. The subject has been discussed several times with the Mayor and he has stated that none of the Commissions have a budget. He suggested talking to the City's grantwriter, Kristen Wilson, which Susie and Micah will do and then we will set up a time to either meet with the Mayor in his office or at a monthly meeting. The sense is that the Arts Commission can be a tool for the City to pull money from other sources that would not normally be available to municipalities; however, we don't want to appear too greedy.

Report on the Arts District kick off and the impact on arts organizations and business elsewhere in the city.

Congratulations to the Arts Districts! More than two hundred people attended what is intended to become an annual event. Micah noted that numerous people approached him saying what an incredible event this was and how supportive they are of the new designation. It was also remarked that any legislation regarding the Commission or the Arts District be published on the website. With the focus on the Arts District being so intense right now, it is important that the Commission continue to remind ourselves and the community that we are City-wide and that we are empowered by the Common

Counsel to produce. The Commission will employ the use of ad hoc committees for projects/programs until that particular event/task has been completed.

Report on Arts Mid-Hudson's folks arts coordinator, Elinor Levy, about a possible field research project on the Latino community

Ward met with Arts Mid-Hudson folklorist, Elinor Levy, to discuss a Latino Festival to be held in Kingston. They will be approaching Humanities NY for assistance. The Commission will partner with SUNY New Paltz and UCCC and the festival will be comprised of a combo of performances, discussions and a traveling exhibition which would travel around the County. Lara Giordano moved to go forward with the program, Richard Frumess seconded, none opposed.

Create a list of primary goals accomplished during the first year, for presentation to the Mayor.

- The Arts District Committee of the Commission was part of the core group that organized the Arts District Kick-Off.
- Spearheaded by the Commission, the Public Art Project with Kingston High School morphed into them acquiring a space.
- The Commission has met with numerous groups and individuals that are extremely important for our engagement with the arts and cultural community in Kingston.
- We continue to bring people into our meetings that can enhance our knowledge of the community and help formulate goals and objectives
- The Commission is working to inventory all of the City's artwork.
- Discussion has ensued regarding the creation of a comprehensive City-Wide Clearinghouse Calendar and a resource "catalog" for artists and arts-related businesses moving to the area.

Adjourned at 6:00 p.m. – next meeting, December 8th at 4:30 p.m.